has been suffering a grave disadvantage vis-a-vis international competitors but for the high cost of packaging;

(b) if so, whether packaging in India costs upto 50 per cent of the product packed;

(c) if so, how it compares with the international standards and costs; and

(d) the steps being taken to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) Growth of any industry including food processing and other agro based industries would depend on several factors such as quality of the products, competitive cost, sale price etc. Cost of packaging is one of the factor effecting the price.

(b) Packaging are of different types to suit the products packed and naturally the cost of packaging varies and is estimated to range from 15 to 30 per cent.

(c) While an accurate assessment of the cost of packaging in different countries may be difficult, cost of packaging in certain cases in India may be relatively higher.

(d) Various steps taken by the Govt. for promotion of food processing industries inter-alia include reductions of excise and customs duty on certain packaging materials like glass, paper and paper boards, aluminium foils and plastic. Ministry of Food Processing Industries has also extended financial support for Research & Development activities related to packaging of processed foods.

Proposals from States/UTs for giving benefits to SCs/STs

*280. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the State/Union Territory Governments for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 for giving benefits to the SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the detatils thereof; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Grant has been released against suitable proposals received in 1996-97 from State/U.T. Govt. which were complete in all respects. Grants have been released for some of the proposals received during current year. Other proposals are being processed and money will be released after they are found suitable in all respects.

A statement containing State/UT-wise releases for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 (updated) in respect of SCs and STs is given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix **131, Annexure No. 52**)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

कोल इंडिया लि० द्वारा अदा नहीं किए गए लाभांश की बकाया राशि

2016. श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे : क्या **कोयला** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कोल इंडिया लि० ने उनके मंत्रालय को 1994-95 से लाभांश की अदायगी नहीं की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) कोल इंडिया लि० पर वर्ष 1994-95, 1995-96 और 1996-97 के लिए लाभांश की बकाया राशि का ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) बकाया लाभांश को वसूल करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं ?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कान्ति सिंह) : (क) से (ग) कंपनी अधिनियम, 1956 की धारा 205 में दिए गए प्रावधानों के अनुसार लाभांश का भुगतान केवल विभाज्य लाभ ही किया जा सकता